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FEAR OVER THE TELEPHONE

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Janata Party came to power asking the people to shun fear. Fear has not yet become a thing of the past. It is very much in the air as will be seen by what the Prime Minister told the Lok Sabha recently.

Replying to a question he told the members of the House, that the telephones of anti-social elements and those who indulged in violent activities were being tapped.

Mr. Morarji Desai further clarified his point by asserting that it was the right of the Government to tap the phones and whatever was done, "was being done with my knowledge".

FEAR LURKS

He told an AIADMK member, Mr. Bala Pazhanoor: If "any tapping is done, it is not done to restrict the freedom of the members but to ensure the freedom of all peace-loving and law abiding people".

In other words, fear lurks wherever the telephone is used. There is no certainty that it is not being tapped. In the circumstances, the Janata Party cannot claim that it has got rid of fear and the people enjoy total freedom of express on as would be expected in a Democracy.

What is the difference between this Government and the previous Government that carried on its policies under the Emergency?

It is said that when a ferocious wild animal like the tiger is wounded and no longer able to hunt for game in its natural habitat, it goes into the villages stealthily to spring upon helpless sheep, a child or any human being. Once it has tasted human blood the animal goes for nothing else.

WHO IS TO DECIDE?

The same can be said of weak governments which are constantly under the suspicion that the people are scheming to put them out of power. The former Congress Governmet was blamed as having set up a police raj where nobody was above suspicion.

Now, the Prime Minister who belongs to the Janata Government feels that it is necessary to overhear what the people are talking about although he qualifies his actions by saying that only the unsocial and violent elements are being subjected to this treatment. *Who is to decide what is unsocial?*

How can the tapping of the phones "ensure the freedom of all peace-loving and law abiding people?"

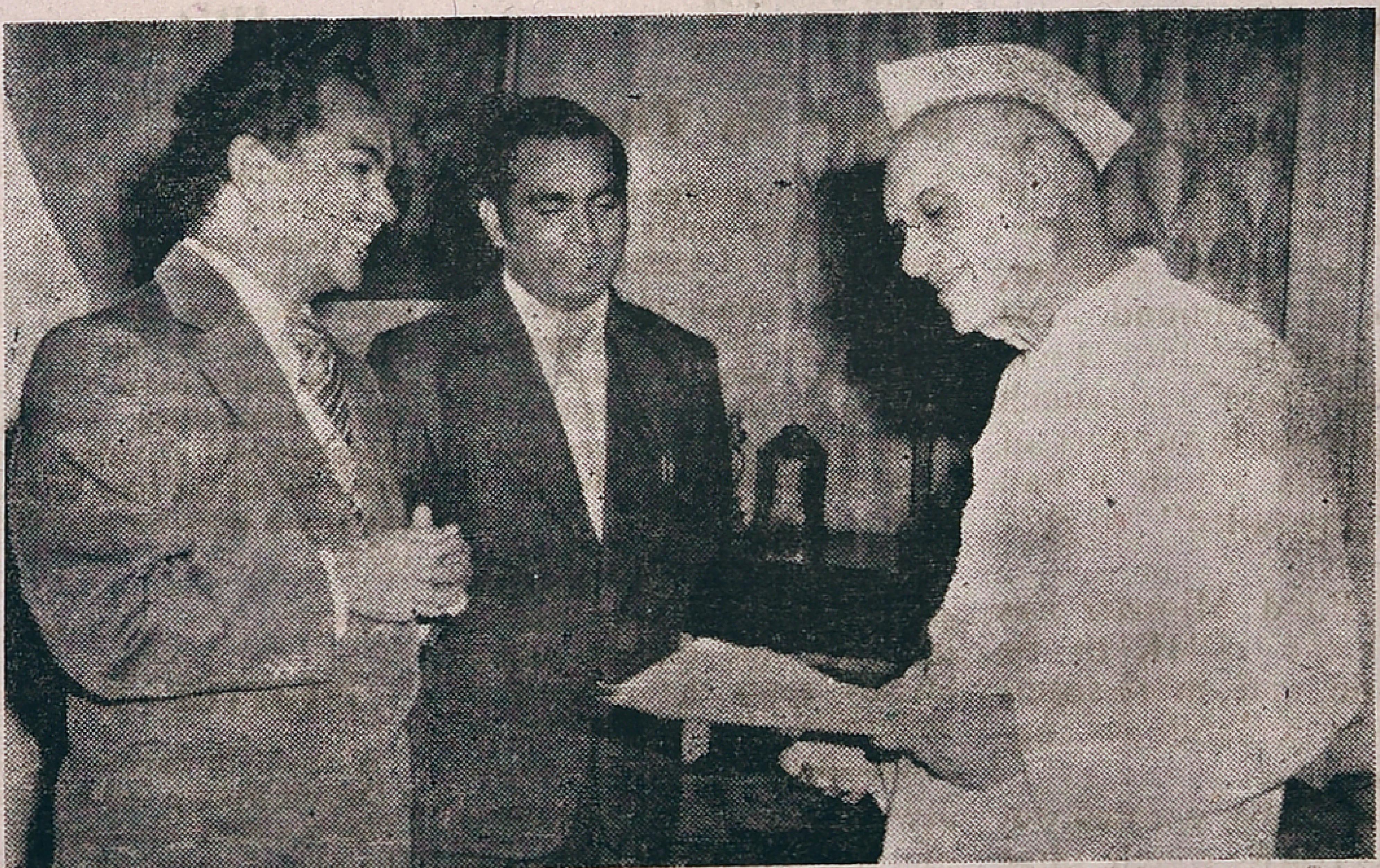
MISA is an ugly word. Call it by any other name and still it will smell foul. The Janata Government is certainly toying with the idea of imposing certain restrictions on those who do not see eye-to-eye on some of its policies. MISA served the previous Government to push through many of its unpopular schemes. The Janata men are thinking in terms of devising similar methods of preventive detention of those inimical to their viewpoint, but do not openly admit that they favour MISA.

NO LAW FOR IT

Contrary to what the Prime Minister has admitted in Parliament, the Union Minister for Communications, Mr. Brijlal Verma, had denied only the other day that there was any

(Contd. on page 8)

MORARJi DESAI
Prime Minister



Mr. V. G. Panneerdas and his brother, Mr. V. G. Santhosham met Governor Prabhudas Patwari at the Raj Bhavan recently and represented him the need for the repeal of the Urban Land Ceiling Act for it affected people of all walks of life and house building industry. The Governor is reported to have said that State Governments are seized of the matter and the difficulties caused may be removed soon. Picture shows VGP Brothers with the Governor.

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THUS SPAKE THE MAHATMA

My scheme of life, if it draws no distinction between different religionsts in India, also draws none between different races. For me 'man is a man for a' that'.

ASOKA SCENTED BETELNUT POWDER

Free India

SUNDAY Dec. 25, 1977

BRIEF FOR THE FARMERS

The DMK party never misses to seize any opportunity for its political gain. DMK is always ready with an outstretched hand to support any cause if it suits it well.

Ever since the AIADMK came to power, the DMK leaders have been accusing it for its failure to do one thing or the other.

They tried to utilise the PTC Strike, Padi labour dispute and then the black flag demonstration agaist Mrs Indira Gandhi to their own advantage. Failing to make much of a dent they have now taken up the cause of the farmers to launch an agitation.

Reacting to the reported decision of the DMK executive committee to launch an agitation in support of the farmers' cause the Food Minister, Mr G. R. Edmund, has rightly said that the DMK had "no right" to launch any agitation in support of the farmers whom it had "miserably failed" to protect.

The Food Minister has asked the DMK to be "realistic and more specific" in its demands or suggestions.

He has also pointed out that the DMK, which once ruled the State, knew that without the Centre's permission price could not be raised or bonus paid.

The DMK, as a responsible opposition party, can always voice the grievances of the farmers in the Assembly, whose winter session starts on Dec 28, instead of through agitations. For agitations, as we have seen, inevitably end up with violent incidents.

Of Men And Matters

Beware The Feminine Claws!

THOUGH not exclusively devoted to highlighting the affairs of men in this column, it is a long time that the doings of women have received its attention.

In Japan, women are mostly seen, but seldom heard: Now, They are no longer content with just serving tea with a ceremony, After having gone around the world, they have found themselves wanting in the department of women's liberation in their own country.

It seems to have been silly to have remained obscure for centuries in their own corners merely gesturing with low bows. They have formed a Party for themselves called the Japanese Women's Party (JWP) astutely assessing a potential electorate of one-half of the population.

For a start, they expect to have 10 to 12 candidates participating in and winning the next elections for the Upper House of the Japanese Parliament. Once then have captured their seats they intend to be listened to. To make sure that they will be heard without protest from their opposite sex, the prospective candidates are taking lessons in the art of self-defence—Karate.

Their Party President informed a foreign correspondents' club in Japan, "All candidates will undergo training in Karate under an expert. If we feel that we are at a disadvantage in getting laws unbeneficial to women changed, we shall resort to physical action and knock down male law-makers."

So for the first time, the women of Japan have blown the first blast of the war trumpet What will happen if male deputies, some of whom are surely "black belts", decide to retaliate? The drama will be worth witnessing.

• • •

Sugar In The Red

NONE can grudge the move to stabilise uniformity in the distribution of sugar quota to consumers both in the urban and rural areas, but in the name of uniformity what is sought to be done is to remove a slice of the ration legitimately enjoyed by the urban cardholders in Madras to their counterparts in the villages.

Living habits of the urbanites are so contrasting with those of the rustic folk that one cannot blandly apply the yardstick of uniformity in the matter of allotment of sugar espicially when it is known that the serving of coffee and tea in most of the homes of the upper middleclass happens to be a status symbol. It is pointless to retort and say that these sophisticated can well afford to go in for the extra sugar in the open market at the enhanced price.

The Civil Supplies Department in revising the sugar allotment to the cardholders in Madras city with effect from January 1 next, have stipulated a quota of 425 grammes per head for all categories of the citizens thus scrapping the existing system of sugar rationing on the basis of the salary slab of the head of the family. Under the new system a family of five members would be eligible only for 2kg. 125 gr whereas they were getting 6kg so far every month.

Each according to his needs should be the principle applicable in the matter of the rationing of essential commodities. Sugar is one such requirement of the people. It is known that the labouring sections of the people like the hutment dwellers and the rickshaw pullers do not make use of the sugar bought in the fair price shops, but dispose it in the black market for a profit.

Now that these people who are usually satisfied with drinking tea from the tea stalls, are going to have a windfall in the name of uniformity by selling the extra quantity for additional profits.

Those whose sugar quota is being drastically cut will now have to shy away serving beverages in their homes to their guests. —DEEVEE.

Certificate of Illiteracy

Can one finish school and remain absolutely illiterate? One can, it seems. Richard Fischer of Seattle, U. S. A., got his school-leaving certificate, although he had not learned to read. Because of that he was rejected even by the army. He and his father have now filed a suit, demanding additional education and claiming compensation for all the time he has been out of job since his graduation in 1974.

Startin Young

A would-be bandit walked into a Detroit bakery and announced: "This is a stick-up. I have a gun". The two women on duty just stared, for the "hold-up man" was a 12-year-old boy, who hastened to demand that they fill a large bag with cookies. He was apprehended a few minutes later by police. The "gun" turned out to be a screwdriver.

Reader Writes

DHARMENDRA

In many a movie we had seen the good-samaritan role played by Dharmendra.

By his attack recently on a male and female journalist in Bombay, he has violated that good spirit he had created on the screen.

How unbecoming is this violent behaviour of his and I see his ingratitude towards the tribe of scribes who are invariably used by film people as a spring—board for their own success and glory in films.

A. SAMPATH KRISHNA
Madras - 600 001.

Suffering Christmas

IN his Christmas message, the Bishop of Madras, Rev Sundar Clarke says :—

Every year Christmas comes and goes and elaborate preparations are made for the 25th of December when the birth of Jesus Christ is celebrated in Churches, Homes, Institutions and perhaps even in Shopping Centres. Homes are decorated, Christmas trees are put up, Santa Clauses appear, the Christmas stocking is hung and pallagarams, Christmas puddings and minced pies are all a part of the Christmas celebration.

This is so because the birth of Jesus Christ brings joy to every human heart because in His coming into the world God has brought to man peace on earth, good-will to all mankind. God becoming man an event in history is also for the renewal and the reconstruction of a new humanity. Traditionally it is a great spiritual celebration.

I would like to make a very clear call to every christian to suffer this Christmas-suffer as Jesus Christ Himself did. May we be identified, yoke fellows and partners with the cyclone and flood victims of Andhra Pradesh and Tamilnadu. At Christmas Christ revealed His caring and sharing love.

This Christmas of suffering should enable us to reveal in the same spirit of Christ our caring and our sharing love, with our brothers and sisters in Andhra and Tamilnadu who have lost almost everything and who are hungry, stranded, starving, roofless and steeped in sorrow. Christmas this year should be a season for spiritual celebration and physical suffering.

We must renounce ourselves and empty ourselves as Jesus did and be one in spirit with the cyclone victims of Andhra Pradesh and Tamilnadu.

I cannot honestly wish you a Happy Christmas but I wish you the blessing and the spiritual joy of the Babe of Bethlehem.

Axioms Of Production

"YOU cannot lift the wage-earner by pulling down the wage prayer" is one of the axioms laid down by President Abraham Lincoln. It is one of the simplest of truths but yet it has been made by organizational complications almost impossible to convey the truth to those most concerned with it.

When businessmen began to pay bonus to wage earners, it was thought to be a great change bringing about a nexus between the wage-earner and the prosperity of the business. It was believed to hold great promise for cooperation and harmony. But soon the union leaders made the 'bonus' into an addition to wages and a cause for fresh disputes instead of growing into profit sharing.

This and another truth equally plain, viz., that men will work zealously and efficiently when they are motivated by results personally beneficial to them are at the root of our national progress.

Without increased production we cannot become wealthy. India cannot hope to become prosperous by borrowing from other nations. One nation can borrow from another within limits for profitable investment for production, but the limits must be well understood and the investment and management must be done with the greatest care, for otherwise interest will run while we do not earn but lose, or earn not as much as we should.

Increased production being a *sine qua non*, which is Latin for an indispensable condition, let us go back and fully realize the importance of the two truths just stated. Wage-earners have been all unionized. The unions are mostly handled and their policies and activities decided by political groups whose first priority is the strengthening of their own influence and power and not the welfare of the wage-earners.

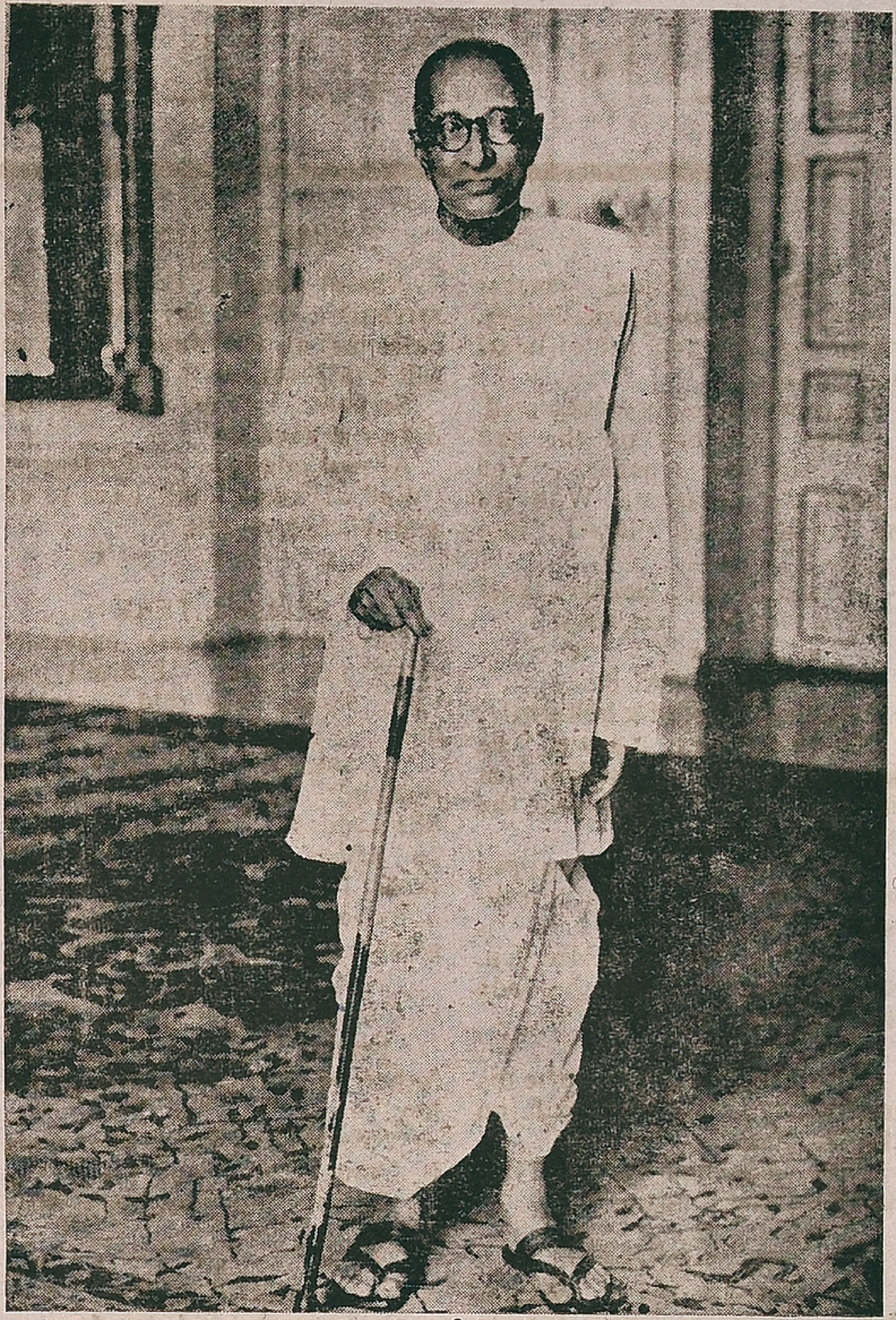
The leaders of the unions bargain and decide on strikes when they would bring additions to their political power or lustre to their image. Achievement in these respects and not increased production is their goal. The management of labour unions in India has become a great impediment for economic truth to get across or production to go forward. Priorities have no chance to get recognized.

Increased, if not full, employment ought to be the national goal. But this can be achieved only if there are jobs which can be filled. And jobs in increasing number can be available only if industrial enterprises grow in size and number, and only if industrial investments are profitable to the investors. Bypassing this hard truth, and turning to the State with its tax-fed exchequer leads to what we are suffering from today—increasing taxes of all kinds and budget gaps and created money and inflation and distressing rise in prices.

If we turn to the management of public enterprises, we have official management replacing that of experienced industrialists. Managers must know their business; managers must be interested in good management and not merely in securing favourable entries in confidential reports from superiors; they must be free to frame their policies and do their work without intervention by persons not so much interested in production as in their own careers in politics. Bureaucratic management under the baneful system of loyalty to ministers with political motivations has been the ruin of our public enterprises. Any one would have learnt the lesson from the invariable losses reported systematically all these years, but ideological dogmatism sits like the old man of the sea on our Sindbads' shoulders and does not allow good sense to prevail.

May 4. 1968.

THE birth centenary of the elder statesman Rajaji is being celebrated for one year from Dec. 9. As a mark of respect to his memory we publish two valued views of Rajaji on Production and Safeguarding the Constitution on this page.



Sri Rajaji

A Motor Car With No Brake

I HAVE been constantly reiterating the importance of defending the Constitution. This is because the Constitution guarantees the following: first, the complete protection of minority communities in the practice of their religions and their equality with the majority community in all secular rights and privileges; secondly, the complete protection of citizens in the enjoyment of their properties inherited or otherwise acquired legally and a guarantee that if the State desires to acquire any part of them, the State should give just and adequate compensation to make up for the loss: thirdly, the need for any acquisition and the adequacy of the compensation should be fully respected. It is these guarantees incribed in the Constitution that save the citizens from dictatorship and serfdom.

If therefore, the constitution should be saved from being sabotaged in these respects, a party pledged to these guarantees and to resist totalitarian rule is absolutely necessary. The people may elect anyone they choose to rule over the affairs of the country subject to the guarantees briefly mentioned above. A party dedicated to defend these guarantees is as necessary as it is necessary to have a parliament and leaders dedicated to good government. The independence of the judiciary and the authority of the Supreme Court should not be interfered with directly or indirectly. These axioms of good government and democracy should be explained clearly to the people and they should be warned against being misled into agreeing to a sabotage of the Constitution.

The economic policies of the Government should be so framed as to lead to social justice which is not impossible if party politics is not allowed to interfere with genuine economic reform and and steps are taken to maintain and improve respect for moral value. This is the fundamental basis for any good government. Leaders should be men and women of the highest character and competence. They should lead and not be led by those whose votes, may, by numbers, give power and authority over the citizens without considering what is good for the nation in the long run. A solid group of people, who guard the Constitution and the rights of people, the rights of the majority as well as minorities, is as important as a Prime Minister and President are necessary. Without such a party it would be like a beautiful motor car without a brake.

FUN AND LAUGHTER

NOT HIM

The Sunday school teacher addressed his class of small boys. "Who led the children of Israel into Canaan ?"

There was no reply volunteered.

"That little boy on the end seat," said the teacher. "You answer the question. Who led the children of Israel into Canaan?"

"It wasn't me, teacher, cause I just moved here last week".

x x x

SALES TALK

A canvasser faced a housewife. "Good morning, madam," he said. "Here is a polish for cleaning silver—best on the market."

"Don't want any!" snapped the woman with the sales resistance.

"Sorry to have troubled you, madam, but I thought the lady next door was mistaken!"

"What did she say ?"

"She said I need not waste my time calling here, as you had no silver to clean".

"The impudent hussy! Give me half a dozen boxes."

x x x

NOT SINGLE

The Russian writer, Maxim Gorky, was at one time living in a lodging house in southern Italy. He complained to the wife of the owner that his bed was infested with vermin which were driving him out of his mind.

The indignant landlady replied. "No, sir, that is impossible. We have not a single bug in the house!"

"No madam," retorted Gorky "not single. They are all married and have very large families too".

x x x

GREETINGS

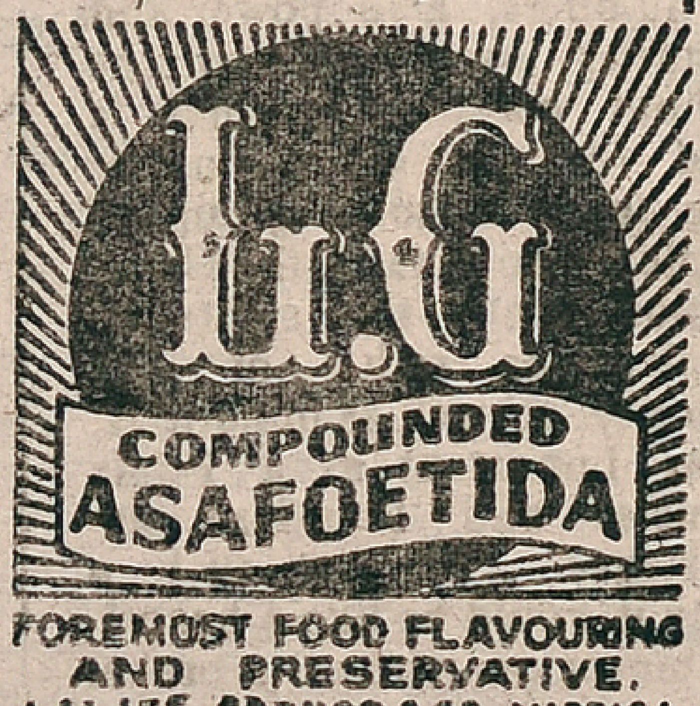
A firm of lawyers rang up a stock broker, and the following conversation took place:

"Good mornig, are you Mr. Denman?"

"Yes, who is that?"

"This is Hullet, Crafsig, Studge, Minardy, Gowle, and Sorrow".

"Oh, good morning, good morning, good morning, good, morning, good morning, good, morning".



ABSENT-MINDED

Absent-minded Professor (to servant) "You say there is a collector at the door. Did you tell him I was out?"

Servant: "Yes, sir, but he didn't believe me".

Absent-minded Professor: "Well, I guess I will have to go and tell him myself".

x x x

WEAR & TEAR

The hard-to-please customer shook her head. "I don't like these shoes," she told the salesman. "The soles are too thick".

"Is that the only objection, madam?" asked the salesman. She nodded. "Then, madam," he added, "If you take the shoes I can assure you that the objection will gradually wear away".

x x x

MEANING

"Lenny, you're a pig," said father to his little five-year-old boy.

"Now do you know what a pig is, Lenny?"

"Yes, sir; a pig's a hog's little boy".

x x x

COINCIDENCE

Blushing she hid her face on her father's shoulder. "He loves me," she said.

"Then I suppose he wants to marry you?" the old man grunted.

"Yes, father".

"What's his income?"

She started. "I don't know," she murmured, "but the coincidence is very strange".

"What coincidence?" asked her father.

"He," she answered, "asked the very same question about your income".

x x x

MAKING SURE!

Two expert pickpockets were strolling along the road together Every now and then one of them would stop, take out his watch and look at it.

The companion began to get annoyed.

"I say, Jim" he said, "what's up with you? Why d'yer keep looking at your ticker? Ain't it going, or something?"

"I'm not looking at it to see the time," said the other: "I'm looking at it to make sure that it's still there".

x x x

HIS PROBLEM

"Now, then, Ramesh," said his teacher, "if your father gave you seven annas and your mother gave you six and your uncle gave you four more, what would you have?"

Ramesh wrinkled up his forehead and went into silence for the space of several minutes.

"It ain't a simple problem at all," replied the boy, "I can't make up my mind whether I'd have an icecream or go to the pictures".

RECORD

A young woman, telephoning a music store, was connected by mistake with a garage.

"Do you have 'Two Red Lips and Seven Kisses ? ' she asked.

"No, but we do have two tom cats and seven kittens," replied the facetious garge man.

"Is that a record?"

"Well, lady we think it is," answered the man. "We sure think it is".

x x x

SMART

A young boy, undergoing an examination for a position, came across the question: "What is the distance of the earth from the sun?" He wrote his answer as follows:

"I am unable to state accurately, but I don't believe the sun is near enough to interfere with a proper performance of my duties if I get this clerkship".

He got the job.

x x x

ANSWERS

"I've added those figures ten times, sir".

"Good boy".

"And here's the ten answers",

* * *

FOUND OUT

"Did you go to the doctor the other day, John?"

"Yes, I did".

"And did he find out what you had?"

"Very nearly".

"What do you mean, very nearly."

"Well, I had Rs. 50—and he charged me Rs. 40!"

x x x

BETTER PROOF

Teacher: "Leander swam the Hellespont every night to see Hero: That is the strongest proof of love we have".

Pupil: "I know a better".

"What's that".

"Our maid loves the postman; so she writes a letter to herself every night to make sure he will come next day".

x x x

HIS REGRETS

A friend saw her mowing the lawn. She asked her whether her husband, Amos, was still taking life easy.

"Amos," she replied, "has only two regrets in life. One is that he has to wake up to eat, and the other that he has to quit eating to sleep".

x x x

PUNISHMENT

On being asked to write down a definition of "capital punishment," a Glasgow schoolboy submitted this:

"Being locked in an ice cream or chocolate factory for a weekend would, in my opinion, be capital punishment".

x x x

TOO FAST

"How does that clock go that you won at the Fair?"

"Fine it does an hour in fifty minutes"

A Costly Lesson

"I have an awfully hard time catching people's names when I'm introduced,' said one.

"So do I," said the other, "but I found a clever way to get around the awkwardness of asking to have the name repeated. I just ask. "Do you spell your name with an e or an I?' It usually works splendidly".

"I know. I heard about that before, it worked with me, too, untill once I met a girl I wanted to know better. Now she won't even look at me".

"Why is that?"

"Well, when I was introduced to her, I didn t catch her name, so I asked whether she spelled it with an e or an I".

"What was her name?"

"Hill".

NOW & THEN

"And now, Mrs. Sullivan," said the lawyer, "will you be kind enough to tell the jury whether your husband was in the habit of striking you with impunity ?"

"With what, sir?"

"With impunity".

"He was, sir, now and then; but he struck me oftener with his fist".

x x x

PERTINENT QUESTION

Salesman: "Ladies and gentley men, I have here the famouflexible comb that will stand ans kind of treatment. You can bend it double—you can hit it with a hammer—you can twist it—you can—"

Listener: "Say, mister, can you comb your hair with it ?"

* * *

OFFER

Two doctors were talking in a restaurant. A black market speculator was at the next table.

"I've got several cases of hysteria," said one doctor to the other.

The black market operator whispered: "Name your price, mister, I'll take the lot".

x x x

DEFINITION

Teacher—"What does unaware mean?"

Susie—"It's the last thing you take off at night"

x x x

DEDUCTIONS

A backwoods mountaineer one day found a mirror which a tourist had lost.

"Well, if it ain't my old dad". he said as he looked in the mirror. "I never knowed he had his pitcher took".

He took the mirror home and stole into the attic to hide it. But his actions didn't escape his suspicious wife. That night while he slept she slipped up to the attic and found the mirror. "Hum-am," she said, looking into it, "so that's the old hag he's been chasing".

How To Avoid Myopia?

By Professor E. AVATISOV

MYOPIA holds the first place among eye ailments that impair the sight. Even the dreaded glaucoma "yields the palm" to it. The problem is a particularly grave one because myopia affects people in youth. According to modern statistics, every fifth school-graduate is short sighted. It is poor consolation that only 6 per cent of the sufferers are so severely affected that they have to give up their job: these few per cents add up to millions of people, and their number is constantly growing.

Serious study of myopia was not undertaken until the last century. Among many suppositions voiced as to its origins and development, eventually the view that myopia is a hereditary disease has tended to predominate. So much so that in many countries ophthalmologists have abandoned all attempts at influencing the course of the disease.

Research has shown that in three cases out of ten, the inception and development of the disease is indeed predetermined by the genetic code. But in the remaining cases the disease is conditioned by a complete interaction of hereditary predisposition, poor w rking conditions and weakness of accommodation, that is, the eye's ability to adapt to changes in the distance to the object of vision.

Observation conducted over some 5.000 patients since 1965 and ocular ergographic examinations enable the condition of the accommodation muscle to be studied. The results indicate that in the majority of cases weakened accommodation is the primary cause of myopia. We have also, for the first time in medical practice, developed a system of preventive training.

PREVENTIVE SYSTEM

This system is based on early detection of weak accommodation muscles through periodic mass examinations of children, Children with this defect are given special physical exercises designed to strengthen these muscles. The training is conducted under observation and with participation of the doctor. Some exercises, however, can also be performed independently. Here is one of them. A mark, preferably red in colour is pasted on to the window-pane at eye level. Taking up a stance with the eyes of patient at a distance 30 to 33 centimetres from the mark, an imaginary line is drawn from the mark to some ditsant object. The exercise consists in moving the gaze from the mark to the distant object and back.

This exercise, must be performed wearing glasses twice a day—in the morning and in the evening—for a full month. First two days the patient spends three minutes on it, the second two days, five and then, till the end of the month, seven. After a month, there should be a break of two weeks, them follows another month of training, then another two weeks of rest and after the third month it is necessary to see an ophthalmologist to check the accommodation of the eyes.

This exercise, which is a form of physiological massage, is used very widely, both to consolidate the results achieved in more complex training and for independent training. It has been established that, provided the exercise is done systematically, it improves the function of the accommodation muscles quite considerably. In a number of cases the effect achieved proves lasting, and, in others, repeated courses of prophylactic treatment are required. The positive effect of a one per cent solution of mesaton (an analogue of adrenalin) on eye accommodation, has been studied and demonstrated by researchers. A single administration of mesaton drop normalises the condition of the accommodation muscle for at least two days.

DO'S AND DON'TS

We ophthalmologists, have noticed an increasing proportion of children of pre-school age among our patients, usually children who have been taught to read early and whose eyes are subjected to increased strain because of their fondness for reading or drawing. The tendency towards earlier learning, especially from the educational view point may perhaps be amply justified. But one should not overlook the consequences from medical point of view. In younger children eye accommodation is, as a rule, weak, because the eye muscles like all other muscles, develop with the years.

Here I feel parents and teachers should be very careful and not disregard children's complaints when they say that they cannot see what is written on the blackboard and want to be moved to a nearer row. One should also keep an eye on children when they are reading or writing. If a child raises the book to his eyes or bends his face too low while writing, he must be taken to an eye specialist at once, for those signs may indicate the beginning of myopia. The child's desk must be adequately lighted. Moreover, the light from the lamp should fall only on the working surface, but leave the eyes in the shade. It is very important that the child should keep his eyes at a correct distance from the text, which should be approximately that from his elbow to his finger-tips. The desk should correspond to the height of the child, and the edge of the chair, should be moved under the desk some 3 to 5 centimeters. When watching TV children should not sit nearer than 2.5 metres from the screen, and the light should be left on. All these are simple and well-known rules of eye hygiene. They may not look so important. But by disregarding them, you increase the unfavourable factors which may accumulate sufficiently to cause short-sightedness.

Teletruth

According to the Paris L'EXPRESS, an American journalist has planned a series of televised interviews with well-known Western politicians. Nothing unusual in that, it would seem. Before the interview, however, they will be made to go through a lie detector test. This will be done, the organizer says, to give these personalities "an opportunity to prove the validity of their public statements." Will the lie detector help, though? For the ability of many politicians to say one thing and to the opposite has long been a universally known fact.

Gate Money For Weddings

Despite prolonged recession, wedding ceremony is becoming more elaborate than even with cost averating yen 3 million (Rs. 1,07,150 approximately) that covers reception and honeymoon in Japan according to a report.

The Kansai Wedding Hall Consultation Centre, which has a network of 374 wedding halls all over Japan conducted nuptials for 8,000 couples. About 30 per cent of the weddings were arranged by parents. Many were the socalled "party weddings" where guests paid membership fees to attend.

A recent survey revealed that the number of guests at reception averaged 50. Reception at a hotel cost each guest yen 15,000 to 20, 00 (Rs. 530 to Rs. 700) against yen 10,000 (Rs. 360) at a public wedding hall. Apart from this, the ceremony itself including reception, clothes rented and gifts for guests cost yen 900,000 to yen 1,300,000 (Rs. 31,000 to 45,000 approx.) Total expense on all accounts averaged about yen 3,000,000, Only about 20 per cent of the couples bore all expenses themselves. The rest had to depend on their parents.

AGREED

Officer (to couple in parked auto):

"Don't you see that sign 'Fine for parking'?"

Driver: "Yes, Officer, I see it and heartily agree with it".

Good Luck Fenced Off

The authorities of Penang (Malaysia) have resorted to an unusual way to protect the statue of Capt. F. Francis Light, the British seafarer who founded the city in the 18th century. They have put a fence around it because people have been flocking to the foot of the bronze image praying for a winning lottery ticket. It all started with a rumour that those who pray before the statue with lighted candles, joss sticks and other offering and then rush off to buy a lottery ticket will have good luck. As a result, the monument's base become so caked with wax and littered with rubbish that the authorities decided on a radical measure and put up the fence to protect the statue.

Jailed For Mass Execution

Dutch millionaire Pieter Menten has been sentenced to 15 years imprisonment for taking part in mass executions by Nazi forces in Poland in World War II. The three-man bench of the Special Court in Amsterdam found the 78-years-old wealthy art collector guilty of involvement in executions of Polish Jews in Nazi-occupied Podgorodtsy on July 7, 1941, but acquitted Menten on a charge of wartime atrocities on Urich on August 27, the same year.

No-Smoking Incentive Pays Well

By taking a no smoking oath the employees of a Kobe, Japan, company get monetary benefit of yen 10,000 to yen 13,000 a month apart from improving their health and efficiency.

Under this novel scheme introduced by Mr. Chuichi Yoshioka, 70, president of the company, the workers must pledge not to smoke while at the office during working hours, while driving on company business, or while attending company functions such as parties, outings and sporting events.

Mr. Yoshioka, who introduced this no-smoking allowance system in 1968, reasoned that a person who smokes eight cigarettes a day, spending five minutes on each cigarette, is wasing 40 minutes a day and 1.000 minutes a month. So he decided to compensate the non-smokers by paying yen 10 to 13 a minute or yen 10,000 to 13,000 a month.

At present 20 out of his 26 workers have taken the no-smoking oath. As production rates are steadily climbing, the grateful president has decided to increase the no smoking allowance.

PLAN WITH THE PLANETS

For The Week 25th December To 31st December 1977

MESHA (ARIES)
Aswini Bharani
Krittika 1/4

THIS week shows favourable trends. You will be able to complete some of the long pending works. Financial position will improve. Minor speculative gains are also indicated. You should continue your efforts, but don't expect quick results. You will be able to reap the benefits after a couple of weeks. Family atmosphere will be cloudy. Avoid friction with elders. Favourable days: 25th & 26th.

VRISHABA (TAURUS)
Krittika 3/4 Rohini
Mrigashirsha 1/2

MOST of the week will be favourable. You will be given a new and more attractive position. Financial position will improve. But avoid speculative investments for some more time. Property matters could be finalised. Family members will be cooperative. Youngsters need watching. Favourable days: 28th & 29th.

MITHUNA (GEMINI)
Mrigashirsha 1/2 Arudra
Punarvasu 3/4

THIS week shows mixed results. You will be able to start new ventures. But you cannot expect quick results. Finance is fairly satisfactory. Avoid speculative investments for some more time. You can expect help from friends. Change of place is indicated for some. You may be undertaking a journey shortly. Favourable days: 27th & 28th.

KATAKA (CANCER)
Punarvasu 1/4 Pushya
[illegible]

MOST of the week shows favourable results. You will be taking up additional responsibility, but can also expect good returns for your efforts. Financial position will be satisfactory. Minor speculative gains are also indicated. Family atmosphere will be pleasant. Matters relating to children could be finalised. Favourable days: 28th & 29th.

SIMHA (LEO)
Maka Purva Palguni
Uttara Palguni 1/4

THIS week shows mixed trends. You will be able to complete some of the long pending works. Family responsibility will increase, but you can expect cooperation from elders. Finance is fairly satisfactory. Property matters should be handled properly to avoid complications. Partnership matters require attention. Favourable days: 29th & 30th.

KANYA (VIRGO)
Uttara Palguni 3/4 Hastha
Chitra 1/2

THIS week shows mixed results. You will get an opportunity to develop new lines. But you should be cautious in dealing with strangers. Partnership matters also require attention. Financial position will improve. Avoid impulsive actions while deciding important matters. Also avoid friction with associates. You may have to undertake a journey shortly. Favourable days: 30th & 31st.

THULA (LIBRA)
Chitra 1/2 Swathi
Visakha 3/4

THE first part of the week will be favourable than the second half. You should not take additional responsibility. Minor changes are indicated in office. Avoid friction with superiors. Financial position will be satisfactory. Change of place is indicated for some. Family members will be cooperative. Youngsters need more attention. Favourable days: 28th & 29th.

VRISCHIKA (SCORPIO)
Vishakha 1/4 Anuradha
Jyeshtha

THIS week will be favourable. You will be able to finalise partnership arrangements favourably. You can expect improvement in financial position. Minor speculative gains are also indicated. Legal matters should be handled properly to avoid complication. Family atmosphere will be pleasant. Favourable days: 27th & 28th.

DHANUS (SAGITTARIUS)
Mula Purva Ashadha
Uttara Ashadha 1/4

MOST of the week shows favourable trend. You will be able to start new ventures. Financial position will improve. But avoid speculative investments for some more time. You can expect help from your friends. You should try to develop new contacts. Family atmosphere will be pleasant. Short journeys are indicated. Favourable days: 27th & 28th.

MAKARA (CAPRICORNUS)
Uttara Ashadha 3/4
Shravana Dhanistha 1/2

THIS week indicates mixed trends. You will be able to solve some of the long pending problems. No major changes in office. But avoid arguments with superiors. Finance is fairly satisfactory. Avoid speculative investments. Partnership matters should be handled properly. Favourable days: 28th & 29th.

KUMBHA (AQUARIUS)
Dhanishta 1/2 Sathabhishag
Purva Badrapada 3/4

THIS week shows ordinary results. You should wait for some more time to implement your plans. Financial position will improve. But avoid speculative investments for some more time. Family members will be cooperative. Youngsters will be a source of anxiety. Short journeys are indicated. Health requires attention. Favourable days: 28th & 29th.

MEENA (PISCES)
Purva Badrapada 1/4
Uttara Badrapada Revati

MOST of the week will be favourable. You should try to make best use of this opportunity to improve your position. You can expect much help and encouragement from your superiors. Finance is fairly satisfactory. Minor speculative gains are also indicated. Health will be well maintained. Favourable days: 26th & 27th.

Muscovite's Diary

IVAN IVANOV

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

HUMAN Rights Day has been marked the world over. In this connection, a public meeting was held in Moscow on December 10 which was addressed, among others, by Alexei Shytikov, the Chairman of the Soviet of the Union of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, who said that the Soviet Union was the first country in the world to tackle on a practical basis the task of providing genuine human rights and formulated this task in the early days after the Great October Socialist Revolution of 1917, in the Declaration of the People of Russia.

The new Soviet Constitution adopted in early October, he said, has offered unlimited opportunities for all-round development of the individual, guarantees to the Soviet people broad democratic rights and freedoms in all spheres of social life and backs them up legislatively.

STABLE ROUBLE

RISING prices, the headache of housewives everywhere is a phenomenon unknown in the USSR. Prices this year, for instance, were the same as last year, but people had more money to spend, thanks to wage rises for large sections of workers. There was, however, no inflation —another unkown phenomenon in the USSR.

In the current year, 99 per cent of food articles and more than 90 per cent of other goods are being sold at prices prevailing since 1970. This is specially remarkable because two intervening years—1972 and 1975—witnessed severe droughts. The present system of retail prices has been practically the same since mid-50's. There was only one price hike—in 1962 for livestock products, and it pushed up the general price index by just one point. For 16 years in a row, price tags on meat, milk, eggs, butter, cheese, etc. have remained unchanged.

Fixing prices is not easy, especially for new products. The USSR State Committee for Prices, with the assistance of special bodies, attends to this matter. Centralised planning considerably facilitates devising a streamlined system of pricing which does not allow inflation to rear its head.

The integrated state system of price formation helps balance supply and demand, exerts a healthy influence on the budget, and maintains the value of the rouble at stable levels.

x x x

FIFTH TASHKENT FILM FESTIVAL

THE Fifth International Film Festival of Asian, African and Latin American countries will open on May 23, 1978 in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, it was officially announced here at a Press Conference.

Addressing the Press Conference, A. Abdullaev, Director of the Tashkent Film Festival, said the main objective of the festivals

(Contd. on page 8)

RACE REVIEW:

Grand Parade's Facile Win In 2,000 Guineas

By 'SNAPPER'

IT was a treat to watch Grand Parade stride past the winning post all on his own in the South India 2,000 Guineas on Sunday last to give his owners, Mr. and Mrs. A C. Muthia, their first classic success in the current season at Guindy. Trainer J. Tyrrell who saddled this 3-year-old colt by Everyday II–Mumtaz was very pleased at his ward's success and deservedly so when it is recalled that Grand Parade's victory in the Nilgiri's Derby early this year at Ooty was unfortunately reversed in the Stewards room in favour of Winged Wonder who placed second in a photo-finish when its rider raised an objection.

The time of 1m. 43 secs recorded by this year's winner for the 1,600M race as against Red Satin's timing of 1m. 42 secs last year, need not discount Grand Parade's excellent chances in the South India Derby to be run on Pongal Day.

In all, six contenders faced the starter for this first of the classics for the colts in which Grand Parade was installed an odds-on favourite with Linden Flora and Conspiracy ranging as joint-second favourites. Major Role and King's Bench were available at better odds while Smart Guy was the only outsider.

Smart Guy did all the pace setting up to the straight with Conspiracy and Linden Flora running close behind. Once the straight was reached, it became obvious that Grand Parade would streak away from the rest of the field to a clear victory. He was seen galloping most fluently in a manner and style that endeared him to his numerous supporters. Jockey Carroll who rode the colt with great confidence, had no qualms of being overtaken at the crucial stage as both Linden Flora and Major Role who finished second and third respectively on the board, could not lengthen their strides even nearing the homestretch so much so that Grand Parade was able to canter away to a 4-length victory from Linden Flora.

Some explanation is called for to justify River Spray's poor performance on Saturday last in the Nagapattinam Plate of 1,400M in the handicap race for Class II horses. This winner of the South India Gold cup last year at Guindy was well within striking distance at the 200M mark, but Webster did not urge his mount to get him close to winner.

That Face the Facts won twice this season consecutively indicates that the gelding had more in hand while gaining his earlier win in the South India Gold Cup.

Khublei Khan won the Chingleput Plate of 1,000M for 2-year-olds the first time out from the well-backed Tippoo the Great who had done better when running with Own Opinion in an earlier race on soft going.

Fire Angel's inability to give a better show on her second appearance last Saturday in Khublei Khan's race' should be set aside and she should be followed for a win next time.

Big Time who ran well on Sunday in the Tejpur Plate 1,200M must be noted when next saddled.

SATURDAY RACES

The following are the acceptances for the races to be run at Guindy on Saturday, December 24th with the Stewards Cup being the main attraction.

1. JODHPUR PLATE
1600 Metres 1-45 P.M.
H'cap for horses in Class IV

1. Queen of Seer 60, 2. Rosedrop 59, 3. Sri Balaji 55, 4. True Verdict 52½, 5. Goya 52.

2. KITTY BANK PLATE
1200 Metres 2-25 P. M.
H'cap for horses in Class II

1. Urvashi 60, 2. Character 55½, 3. Autumn Gold 55, 4. Kreetam 54½, 5. Candide 53, 6. Heera 51½, 7. Charlemagne 50½, 8. Loyal Roman 49.

3. KOVALAM PLATE
1200 Metres 3-00 P.M.
H'cap for horses in Class A

1. Prediction 60, 2. Ruffian 59, 3. Silver Legend 57, 4. Khan of Khoristan 56, 5. Brainy Bet 55½, 6. Sky Wink 55½, 7. Stambecco 50½, 8 Know How 49½, 9. Analie 49, 10. Multi Rock 47.

4. GRIFFIN CUP
1200 Metres 3-35 P. M.
For Ind Fillies 2 years old only

1. Cap O'Dimonte 57½, 2. Fine Future 54½, 3. Saucy Sheila 51, 4. Mohini 51, 5. Gold Tower 51, 6. Cherooke 51, 7. Michelle 51.

5. STEWARDS CUP
1200 Metres 4-10 P.M.
H'cap for horses in Class III

1. Young Hawk 60, 2. Asyabatta 55½, 3. Far Superior 54, 4. Pixie Girl 54, 5. Thunder Thunder 53½, 6. King Pin 53, 7. Paddy Love 51, 8. Willow 49, 9. Gretel 49, 10. Terrific Victory 48½, 11. Well Wisher 47½.

6. KABINI PLATE
1400 Metres 4-45 P. M.
H'cap for horses in Class A
4 years old & upwards

1. Prunella 60, 2. Noble Heart 57½, 3. Philemon 55½, 4. The Hermit 54, 5. Stalemate 53, 6. Amanta 50½, 7. Blazing Star 49½, 8. The Commanding Boy 48½, 9. Chota 47, 10. Sree Chendi 47.

7. NEWBURY PLATE
1200 Metres 5 15 P. M.
H'cap for horses in Class B

1. Kanakadara 60, 2. Anugraham 59½, 3. Arabesque 57½, 4. Vihanga 53, 5. Our Neckar 52, 6. Hot Bid 51.

	Race Nos.
JACKPOT :	2, 3, 4, 5 & 6.
1st TREBLE :	1, 2 & 3.
2nd TREBLE :	4, 5 & 6.
1st DOUBLE :	2 & 3.
2nd DOUBLE :	5 & 6.
1st TANALA :	Race : 3.
2nd TANALA :	Race : 5.

Snapper's Selections

I	Rosedrop	1
	Sri Balaji	2
II	Kreetam	1
	Heera	2
III	Analie	1
	Stambecco	2
IV	Gold Tower	1
	Mohini	2
V	Far Superior	1
	Young Hawk	2
VI	Blazing Star	1
	Amanta	2
VII	Vihanga	1
	Our Neckar	2

Best Bet. **Kreetam.**

SUNDAY RACES

The following is the card for the 11th day's races to be run on Sunday, 25th December, 1977.

1. THE CEYLON PLATE
1600 M. Class B. 2-15 p.m.

1. Bonnie Brae 60, 2. Royal Record 59½, 3. Cosmic Dancer 58, 4. Sweet Revenge 55, 5. Rashtra Doot 48, 6. Hypnotique 48.

2. THE RAJASTHAN PLATE
1400 M. Class IV. 2-55 p.m.

1. Repartee 60, 2. Veertha 60, 3. Retribution 57, 4. Seagypsy 56, 5. Trelawne 52½, 6. The President 48½, 7. King Midas 46½.

3. THE MEMBERS CUP
2400 M. Class A. 3-30 p.m.

1. Hampton Court 60, 2. Robinson Crusoe 58½, 3. Orrefors 58, 4. Tunes of Rome 53, 5. Red Prince 50½ 6. Little Flower 49½, 7. Donuprani 46½.

4. THE KASHMIR GOLD CUP
2400 M. Indian Class I. 4-05 p.m.

1. Statesman 60½, 2. King of seers 50½, 3. Grande Marque 45½, 4. Century Princess 45½, 5. Honeyday 45½, 6. Mid Day Sun 45½.

5. THE COORG PLATE
1,200M Class B. 4 yrs. Old And Upwards 4-40 p.m.

1. Sporting Sam 60, 2. Bapu's Blessings 59, 3. Sovereign Pot 59, 4. Hidden Treasure (late Gun Metal) 52, 5. Even time 51½, 6. Gold Bond 51½, 7. Roman Love 45½, 8. Rock De Art 45½ 9. Pasquin 45½.

6. THE SILVER SANDS PLATE
1,000M. Maiden Ind. 2 Yrs. Old Only 5-15 p.m.

1. Duke of Wellington 54, 2. Jet Liner 54, 3. Prince Prashant 54, 4. Regal Eagle 54, 5. Nation's Pride 54, 6. Red Crown 54, 7. Tic Tac Toe 54, 8. Queen's Melody 52½, 9. Magic Love 52½.

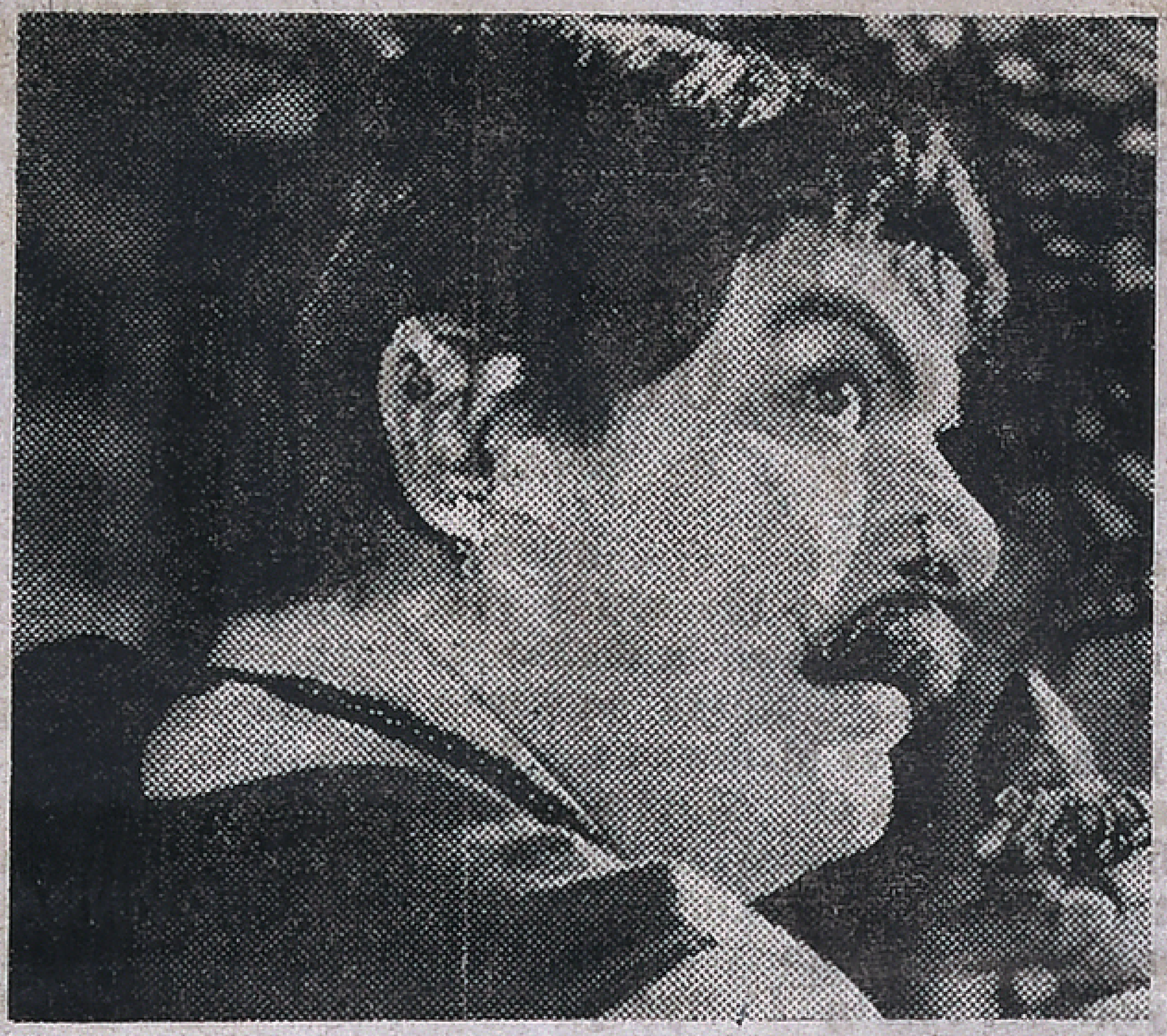
JACKPOT :—2, 3, 4, 5 & 6.
1st TREBLE :—1, 2 & 3.
2nd TREBLE :—4, 5 & 6.
1st TANALA Race : 3.
2nd TANALA Races : 5.
1st DOUBLE :—2 & 3.
2nd DOUBLE :—4 & 5.

Snapper's Selections

I	Royal Record	1
	Cosmic Dancer	2
II	The President	1
	King Midas	2
III	Red Prince	1
	Tunes of Rome	2
IV	King of Seers	1
	Grande Marque	2
V	Hidden Treasure	1
	Sporting Sam	2
VI	Duke of Wellington	1
	Tic Tac Toe	2

Best Bet :
Hidden Treasure

Jaishankar in ENGAMMA MAHARASI.



P. S. Veerappa in Ponnmani Pictures' MAYILADUM PAARAI MARMAM.

FILM NEWS:

Amirthayogam Nearing Completion

Chella Pillaiyar Films' Tamil film AMIRTHAYOGAM is nearing completion and is expected to be released for Pongal festival.

Muthuraman, Vijayakumar, Monohar, Surulirajan, Sumitra, Kavitha, Sukumari and Manorama are in the cast.

Madurai Pownraj is writing the story and dialogue and P. Bhaskar Rao photographs.

M. S. Viswanathan scores the music for the lyrics of Kannadasan.

K. M. Balakrishnan directs this film produced by Ramakrishnan.

Ravi Fights Tiger

A scene in which Ravichandran fights with a ferocious tiger was shot recently at Yercaud near Salem for Sridevi Productions' ANBUKKU NAAN ADIMAI.

Besides Ravichandran others in the cast are Rajanikanth, Surulirajan, V.S. Ragavan, Kuppuraj, K.S.G. Reddi, Prabha and S.N. Lakshmi.

Dialogues are by Mathangan, lyrics by Pulamaipithan and music is by Sankar and Ganesh.

V.N. Ranga, who is in the film field for a long time, is looking after production and story.

S. Srinivasan, who worked with director Bhimsingh, is directing it.

FILM REVIEW

Bangaru Bommalu is Impressive

V.B. Rajendra Pr[illegible]'s "BANGARU BOMM[illegible]" (Telugu, Colour), which had jubilee runs in Andhra Pradesh, has Nageswara Rao and Manjula doing the leading roles.

This film, which has a sentimental story, has been directed ably by Rajendra Prasad. The colour photography and pleasing music adds to the lustre of the movie. The bull fight has been photographed and presented in an admirable manner.

As in any other production of Jagapathi Art Pictures, this film also has some rich sets and fine outdoor locations.

Gopi (Nageswara Rao) happens to get back the memory of her past birth and marries her. his previous birth and is haunted by the thought of his lady-love in the previous birth. Like a mad man he goes on in search of her in the true belief that she must have taken a rebirth. And finally he finds her in the form of a rich and popular danseuse—Rani. He gatecrashes into her home, explains everything and convinces her and her father about The major portion of the film, naturally, deals with the events of the previous birth.

Nageswara Rao has enacted the role of Gopi convincingly and Manjula as the care-free village belle Radha is full of vigour and enthusiasm. Jaggiah as the villainous step-brother of Gopi impress. Others in the cast have given good support.

Kavitha and Sripriya in Devar's ATTUKKARA ALAMELU.

From page 1

tapping of the telephone by any Government agency.

He said that if there was any instance of tapping of telephone by any operator, it should be brought to his notice. "I will immediately take strong action". he added.

Mr. Verma had told Samachar that actually the department had no powers to tap any telephone. "There is no law for it," he said.

The Janata leaders speak in many tongues. One does not know what his other partyman has said with the result that confusion is rather the rule than an exception within the Janata Party.

From page 6

was to popularise the best works by film-makers of the three continents, to promote the creative growth of young film industries and to strengthen friendship among nations.

Though the Tashkent festivals do not have a jury or offer prizes, but the best films receive awards and diplomas of Uzbek and other Soviet mass organisations.

The highlights of the festival would be a creative discussion on "films in the struggle for peace, social progress and freedom of peoples', and a films market. The Soviet Union intends to offer about 50 films at the market.

The growing popularity of the Tashkent film festivals can be judged from the fact that while the first festival was attended by guests from 49 countries, the last festival attracted film-makers from more than 70 countries.

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